

The Adrial Clark House
Church Lane and Main Street
Port Republic, Atlantic County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-645

HABS

N.J.

1- PORE P

1.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Adrial Clark House
Church Lane and Main Street
Port Republic, Atlantic County, New Jersey

Owner: (and occupant) Mrs. F. E. Smallwood

Date of Erection: About 1812-1814

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Adrial Clark 1759-1828 (owner 1795-1814)

Present Condition: Original

Number of Stories: Two and one-half, with part
cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - timber frame, clapboarded

Interior walls - lath and plaster on studding

Chimneys - brick, built into inside of gable
end walls

Roof - gable, wood shingled

Historical Data:

The identification of this interesting frame house has been made possible through search of title thereof in the county records back to a date contemporary with that of its erection (as indicated by its recognized period of design and details), the resulting account of successive owners being as follows:

By unrecorded deeds of gift, of dates previous to 1795, William Adams conveyed a one acre lot on the north side of Nacott Creek in Galloway Township (Port Republic) to his nephew William Clifton, and a lot adjacent on its east line to his son Jeremiah Adams. In the year abovesaid, Clifton conveyed his one acre (on which later was to be built the house here surveyed) to Anthony Allicott who by deed of 11 May 1795 passed it to Adrial Clark, and Jeremiah Adams conveyed his lot to

John McFulton who passed it also to Adrial Clark. Adrial Clark(a) having thus come into possession of both lots in 1795 built on the one acre at a date evidently in or just before 1814 the house here surveyed, its design and details indicating that time. He remained for 19 years in possession of both the adjacent lots, and being still of Galloway Township, he with wife Elizabeth(b) gave their deed of 16 September 1814 conveying the same to Levi Smallwood and Evi Adams of the same place, for \$450.

Smallwood and Adams, with respective wife, all of Galloway Township, gave their deed of 25 March 1815 conveying the same one acre lot "with a dwelling house thereon" and the adjacent lot to Joel Vanzant of same place for \$235, reciting the title from William Adams as above outlined and describing the one acre lot thus: Beginning at a stone near the head of a canal that was formerly dug from or near said lot, at the upper shipyard on that side of the creek, about 50 links on a west corner from Nehemiah Blackman's northwest corner; thence north 20 deg. east 2 chains; thence north 70 deg. west 5 chains; thence south 20 deg. west 2 chains to a stake in the swamp; thence south 70 deg. east 5 chains to the beginning.

Both lots were conveyed as one 9.8 acre tract "with all and singular the buildings" etc., by this Joel Vanzant and wife Rebecca, of Galloway Township, to Nicholas Vanzant of same place by deed of 15 April 1816, the consideration money being \$220, and the title recited from William Adams as above outlined.

- (a) Adrial Clark died 15 Nov. 1828, aged 69-10-10, per gravestone inscription in the Clark burial ground in Galloway Twp. (Genealog. Mag. N.J., V, 17). He was grandfather of Beauchamp ("Champ") Clark, U.S. Congressman from Missouri. (A.H. Weston, South Jersey - A History (1924) p. 728)
- (b) Adrial Clark and Elizabeth Hillman were married 18 Feb. 1812 per records of Gloucester County Clerk. This was Clark's second marriage, as see Weston cited above.

The last named grantee held the property until 25 March 1845, when he and wife Mary, being then of Washington Township in Burlington County gave deed conveying to Peter Lane of Galloway Township, (quote) "All that certain house and lot situated near Blackman's Mills in the Township of Galloway, bounded by the lands of Henry Adams, James Vanzant and others", containing 7 acres, "with all and singular the buildings, improvements," etc., the consideration money being \$800.

On 7 June 1853, Lane and wife Rebecca, of Galloway Township, and apparently occupying this house, gave their deed conveying the same house and 7 acre lot and a .4 acre part of this shipyard to Jeremiah Endicott of same place, describing it same as last above quoted, the consideration money being \$1075.

The grantee Endicott held the same and supposedly occupied the house at the date of his will, 25 January 1890, by which instrument proved 26 May following, he devised unto his daughter Mary C. Trench all his real estate and appointed his son-in-law Somers Trench as executor.

By deed of 10 May 1912, Somers Trench and Anna Flentje, both of Atlantic City, describing themselves as heirs of Jeremiah Endicott abovesaid, gave their deed to Jesse L. Hewitt of Port Republic, conveying a 2.96 acre lot in the latter City, being part of the tract and including the house abovesaid. The description of the lines of the lot is of interest as it mentions adjacent features of location thus:- Beginning at a stone in the east side of the road (Church Lane) leading past the M.E. Church, being also the southwest corner of Johnson's property; thence along his line North 85 deg. East 230 feet to a corner in the west line of French's property; thence South 7 deg. West 347.2 feet to a corner; thence North 82 deg. 30 min. West 40.3 feet to a corner; thence South 11 deg. West 275 feet crossing the public street (Main St.) to a stake in the creek by the old wharf, thence crossing a ditch along a West course about 90 feet to

a stake, thence North 39 deg. West 274 feet to a corner in the edge of the upland, thence North 20 deg. East 87 feet to a corner by the side of the public street, thence South 64 deg. East 156 feet along the north side of the street to a corner in the east line of the first mentioned road, thence in the east side of the road leading past the church, north 337 feet to the beginning. The house stands on the northeast side of the street which is described above as cutting the lot in two parts, and faces Macott Creek.

At the death of Jesse L. Hewitt abovenamed, his widow Mary inherited this property. She owns it and occupies it with her second husband, F. E. Smallwood, at the date of our survey of the house in 1940.

Bibliography:

Report on search of title in Land and Probate records in Atlantic and in Gloucester Counties by Oscar F. Benjamin, H.A.B.S. research editor, 1 May 1940

Lewis D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer